

To Whom It May Concern:

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Office of PAGR

The purpose of this letter is to once again plea for the re-opening of our local post office. The New Boston, IL. Post office is one of the many postal offices' closed during the recent cut back due to financial difficulties within the postal service. Sadly we have to admit that it is necessary to close some of the post offices throughout the state, but, our post office serves as more than just the place people go to mail letters or pick up their mail.

Several of our citizens make the trip to the post office every day to "check-in" with each other and the post master of the office. Without any family in town some of these citizens are only seen at the post office. As a local EMT and Fire Department Personnel, I often am notified by the employees of the post office that one or more people haven't been in recently and I then will contact the person either by phone or in person to check on their welfare. Another important aspect of the post office is the shipment of parcels. Some of the businesses in town and a couple of citizens use the post office to ship packages several times a week. We are 15 to 20 miles from the nearest town that has a regular shipping site.

As it is now, we have to use the Joy, IL. Post office for our postal business. Many of our citizens cannot drive to get to the post office. They must depend on neighbors and other citizens to do their postal transactions for them.

Though our town is not big, we do have several businesses within its limits. We have 3 bar/restaurants, 2 beauty parlors, a gas/convenience store, a very large elevator, 5 construction

companies, a dog groomer, a bank branch, a car wash, several small private owned companies and the elementary school for the lower 4 towns of the Mercer County School District.

In closing, it not only distresses our businesses when trying to do their postal business, it cuts off a very vital part of what a small town is all about. We depend on the post office too keep us informed on community events and the health and welfare of many of our citizens. We realize that these are not the main purpose of a post office, but they are the most vital part of a community. And the service to this community that the post office at one time provided is very severely missed. Without our post office, many of our citizens are having to rely on whomever they can to take care of their postal business for them. The little boxes that are set up for the people who don't have a mail route box are difficult to access for some of our citizens. And not having an actual person there to answer questions and give advice on postal matters has left some customers up in the air as to how to handle postal matters.

Please reconsider our post office when discussing the possibility of reopening postal offices in the state of Illinois.

Thank You, 

Natalie Thompson

497 State Highway 17

New Boston, IL. 61272

309-587-3330